## Saturday, August 16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>All Day Event</strong></td>
<td>Residence Hall Move-In for New International Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assigned Residence Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Spartan Information Stations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Engagement Centers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 am - 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consult your Personal Schedule for location</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 am - 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Get Your Spartan ID Card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>170 International Center</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 pm - 9:00 pm</td>
<td>Neighborhood Social</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Locations:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brody- Brody Square Grotto Area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East- Hubbard Hall Rm 132</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North- MSU Union Rm 50</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>South- Wonders Hall Kiva</td>
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<tr>
<td>River Trail- McDonel Hall Kiva</td>
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<tr>
<td>No Room Assignment - MSU Union Rm 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15 am - 12:00 pm</td>
<td>Residence Hall Move-In for New International Students Continues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Spartan Information Stations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 am - 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Required Eligible Provisionally Admitted Student Government Check-In</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 am - 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 am - 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Get Your Spartan ID Card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15 pm - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>MSU English Language Testing 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:45 pm - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Meijer Shopping Trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 pm - 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 pm - 9:45 pm</td>
<td>MSU English Language Testing 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 pm - 8:00 pm</td>
<td>Community Meeting and Tour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sunday, August 17**

**All Day Event**
Assigned Residence Hall

8:15 am - 12:00 pm
B-100 Wells Hall

9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Neighborhood Engagement Centers

10:00 am - 4:00 pm
B-110 Wells Hall

11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Consult your Personal Schedule for location

11:00 am - 3:00 pm
170 International Center

1:15 pm - 5:00 pm
B-100 Wells Hall

1:45 pm - 5:00 pm
Consult your Personal Schedule for location

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Consult your Personal Schedule for location

6:00 pm - 9:45 pm
B-100 Wells Hall

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Neighborhood Engagement Centers
Your International Academic Orientation Program (IAOP):
Leaving a Spartan footprint on your campus, the nation, and the world

- Enroll for classes
- Connect with resources
- Meet current MSU students
- Develop cultural understanding
- Visit a neighborhood/engagement center
- Meet with your advisor
- Learn immigration requirements
- Meet other new students
- Explore campus
- Learn US classroom culture
Important Orientation Reminders

As a new undergraduate international student at Michigan State University, you must attend the mandatory International Academic Orientation Program (IAOP). Michigan State University is committed to providing all new students with information that will help them achieve their goals and be successful at MSU.

• Violations of the Orientation regulations are subject to disciplinary action (i.e., being disenrolled from classes and having a Hold put on your academic record).

NO ORIENTATION = NO ENROLLMENT = NO CLASSES = NO LEGAL IMMIGRATION STATUS

International Academic Orientation Program (IAOP) Regulations

• You must attend required events. Students who do not make up a required session(s) will have their classes dropped and will have a Hold put on their academic record. If an unforeseen circumstance occurs and you cannot attend all presentations, please visit the AOP Office in A-134 Wells Hall from August 18-22.

• Please bring all the materials you received at registration to all the presentations.

• Make sure you have your Spartan ID card with you at all times. Your ID is required for presentation attendance registration. You must swipe your ID as you enter and exit the presentation room.

• You must wear your nametag during the entire week of orientation.

• Students are encouraged to explore the Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS) website (oiss.msu.edu), MSU homepage (www.msu.edu), and the First Year Information website (www.fyi.msu.edu). These sites include helpful information for new students as they transition to college.

• MSU buildings and all structured outdoor IAOP sessions/activities are smoke-free.
# 2014 Required International Academic Orientation Program

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<td>Time</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tbody>
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| 8:00 am - 9:00 am | **Required International Academic Orientation Program Registration**  
All new international students MUST check-in.  
Parents are welcome to attend. |
| 9:00 am - 10:30 am| **Required Welcome Presentation**  
You will be welcomed by the Office for International Students & Scholars (OISS) staff and hear brief but important presentations and reminders. |
| 10:30 am - 11:00 am | **Meet Your Cohort**  
Meet your orientation cohort, a small group of new students with whom you will attend orientation activities throughout the week.  
Your cohort leader(s) is a current undergraduate MSU student. |
| 11:00 am - 1:00 pm | **Lunch with Cohort**  
New international students are encouraged to eat lunch every day (August 18-22) with their orientation cohort and orientation cohort leader. You can use your 2 meal per day orientation meal plan on your conference card to eat at no cost. |
| 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm | **Required Presentation Attendance Registration**  
SPARTAN ID CARD, NAMETAG, AND PERSONAL SCHEDULE NEEDED.  
You must swipe your Spartan ID card as you enter the room so that we have a record of your attendance. |
| 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm | **Required U.S. College Culture Presentation**  
See page 15 for presentation outline |
| 2:45 pm - 4:15 pm | **Cohort Meeting**  
You will discuss what to expect when meeting with your academic advisor, classroom culture, etc. |
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Breslin Center
See page 23 for a list of participants

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Consult your Personal Schedule for location

Resource Fair/Student Organization Fair
Representatives from MSU and the Greater Lansing community are in one location to help you gather information about various departments, student organizations, and support services. Resources include: apartment complexes, cellphone companies, banks, health insurance providers, nationality clubs, driver’s license office, tutoring services, MSU Colleges/libraries, and more!

Dinner
Orientation Leaders are available in Neighborhood dining halls to answer questions and review upcoming orientation events. You can use your 2 meal per day orientation meal plan on your conference card to eat at no additional cost.

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**MSU Bikes and MSU Sustainability**

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

MSU Bikes and MSU Sustainability staff will have a demonstration area setup in the Wells Hall Courtyard from Monday 8/18 through Friday 8/22 from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm. You can see a variety of bikes that are available for sale and rent. Bikes staff will also provide a variety of handy bike-related information and resources and are happy to answer any questions you have about bikes.

---

**NEED HELP OR HAVE QUESTIONS? COME TO THE WELCOME TENT**

Monday-Friday, August 18-22

8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Students who have questions or need help should speak to a staff member or a student leader at the WELCOME TENT near the International Center (west entrance).

**REMEMBER TO ASK FOR HELP IF YOU NEED IT.**

MSU Staff want to help you as you transition to the U.S. and MSU.
Tuesday, August 19

**8:00 am - 12:00 pm**
Consult your Personal Schedule for time & location

**9:00 am - 11:00 am**
International Center Lobby

**11:00 am - 1:00 pm**
Consult your Personal Schedule for location

**1:00 pm - 1:30 pm**
Consult your Personal Schedule for location

**1:30 pm - 2:00 pm**
Consult your Personal Schedule for location

**2:15 pm - 4:15 pm***
Consult your Personal Schedule for location
*Includes cohort meeting time

**5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**
Consult your Personal Schedule for location

**7:00 pm - 10:00 pm**
IM Sports West Building

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**Required Government Check-In**
To complete the required check-in process you must bring your original passport, printed personal orientation schedule, and Certificate of Eligibility (I-20 or DS-2019 form) to government check-in. After arriving in the U.S., you must print your I-94 information and verify that the information on the I-94 printout is correct. Go to www.cbp.gov/I94 to print your I-94, and bring it to government check-in. You will also need to type in the name, address, and phone number of someone MSU can contact in case of an emergency.

Transfer Students Only: You will receive an email stating when you can pick up your new I-20.

**Campus Tour**
Orientation student staff will take you on a walking tour of the Michigan State campus.

**Lunch**

**Required Presentation Attendance Registration**
SPARTAN ID CARD, NAMETAG, AND PERSONAL SCHEDULE NEEDED. You must swipe your Spartan ID card as you enter the room so that we have a record of your attendance.

**Required Online Resources Presentation**
See page 16 for presentation outline

**Required The Road to Academic Success Presentation**
See page 17 for presentation outline

**Dinner**

**Ice Cream Social and Sports**
Make friends in an informal setting while enjoying free MSU Dairy Store ice cream. You can play basketball, soccer, volleyball, and other sports or hang out and talk to new friends.
Required Advising and Enrollment ONLY for:
- All regularly admitted students
- College of Business & Engineering eligible provisionally admitted students

7:00 am
2nd & 3rd Floor, A-Wing Wells Hall

A-132 Wells Hall
B-110 Wells Hall

8:15 am - 9:00 am
B-115 Wells Hall

Academic Advising and Enrollment Check-In
Eligible provisionally admitted students must have their IAOP Ticket/Green Sheet to check in.

Major Change

Math and Foreign Language Placement Testing
Testing for students who did not take the math placement test prior to IAOP, students who want to take a proctored math placement test, or students who need to take a foreign language placement test (French, Spanish, and German).

Leave Your Spartan Footprint
Required for students attending advising and enrollment today.
Review today’s schedule and think about what you will do to leave your Spartan Footprint on our campus, the nation, and the world.

College Session: Planning My Learning Experience
Required for students attending advising and enrollment today.
You will explore the curricular and extracurricular resources that will help you achieve success.

Academic Advising
You must see your academic advisor to plan your fall and spring course schedules.

Enroll for Classes
You will enroll for your courses after consulting with an academic advisor.

Advising & Enrollment Check-Out
In order for us to have a record of your academic advising, which is a condition of enrollment, you must check out. Students meeting with advisors and enrolling for classes in a building other than Wells Hall will check out in the building where they enroll for classes.
11:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Consult your Personal Schedule for location

Lunch

1:00 pm - 1:30 pm  
Consult your Personal Schedule for location

Required Presentation Attendance Registration  
SPARTAN ID CARD, NAMETAG, AND PERSONAL SCHEDULE NEEDED.  
You must swipe your Spartan ID card as you enter the room so that we have a record of your attendance.

1:30 pm - 2:00 pm  
Consult your Personal Schedule for location

Required Immigration Basics Presentation  
See page 18 for presentation outline

2:00 pm - 2:30 pm  
Consult your Personal Schedule for location

Required Healthcare & Health Insurance in the U.S. Presentation  
See page 19 for presentation outline

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm  
Consult your Personal Schedule for location

Midweek Cohort Get Together  
Reunite with the friends from your cohort whom you met the first day of IAOP. Together, you will talk about how the week is going, ask questions you may have, and discuss plans for the rest of the week including how to stay in touch throughout the school year.

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Consult your Personal Schedule for location

Dinner

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
International Center Food Court

School Spirit Event: Go Green! Go White! Go Sparty!  
Many international students want to learn about American college sports. The MSU Association of Future Alumni and MSU Athletics will teach you the basics of the game, what it means to tailgate, who our rivals are, traditional MSU cheers, and much more. You will learn what you need to get involved and help cheer on our Michigan State Spartans!

REMINDER: NEED HELP OR HAVE QUESTIONS?  
COME TO THE WELCOME TENT 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Students who have questions or need help should speak to a staff member or a student leader at the WELCOME TENT near the International Center (west entrance).

REMEMBER TO ASK FOR HELP IF YOU NEED IT.
Thursday, August 21

9:00 am - 11:15 am
Consult your Personal Schedule for location

11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Consult your Personal Schedule for location

1:00 pm - 1:30 pm
Consult your Personal Schedule for location

1:30 pm - 2:00 pm
Consult your Personal Schedule for location

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Consult your Personal Schedule for location

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Honors students meet in 207 Eustace-Cole Hall

Academic Scholars students meet in 208 Eustace-Cole

Advising and enrollment appointments may continue for some students. Follow the instructions you received at your College Session on Wednesday.

Required Participating in Research: Understanding Student Learning
Research and scholarship drive every aspect of Michigan State University’s mission. Research opportunities for undergraduates abound, both on and off the MSU campus. This session is your first opportunity to participate in ongoing research projects at MSU.

Lunch

Required Presentation Attendance Registration
SPARTAN ID CARD, NAMETAG, AND PERSONAL SCHEDULE NEEDED.
You must swipe your Spartan ID card as you enter the room so that we have a record of your attendance.

Required Laws & Safety in the U.S. Presentation
See page 20 for presentation outline

Required IAOP: What’s Next? Presentation and Program Evaluation
See page 21 for presentation outline

Following the IAOP: What’s Next? presentation, all students will complete an orientation survey. Your comments will assist us as we continue to help international students transition to MSU.

Honors College/Academic Scholars Program Invitee Information Session
Students who have been invited to join the Honors College/Academic Scholars Program for Fall Semester 2014 are expected to attend this brief academic advising presentation and opportunity to connect with current students.
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Consult your Personal Schedule for location

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
1345 Engineering Building

Dinner with Neighborhood Student Leaders
Orientation Leaders and other undergraduate student leaders on campus are available in Neighborhood dining halls to answer questions and review upcoming orientation events.

College of Engineering International Welcome and Orientation
Administrators and faculty of the College of Engineering welcome our new international students. This presentation will provide information about engineering education at Michigan State including requirements, expectations, and opportunities. Please join us to learn more about the college and how to be a successful engineering student.

Important Note for Friday, August 22
An opportunity to make up any required orientation presentations you missed Monday-Thursday is available to you tomorrow (Friday).

If you have questions, visit the Welcome Tent outside the International Center between 8am and 2pm or come to the Orientation Office in A-134 Wells Hall.

REMINDER: NEED HELP OR HAVE QUESTIONS?
COME TO THE WELCOME TENT 8:00am-2:00pm

Students who have questions or need help should speak to a staff member or a student leader at the WELCOME TENT near the International Center (west entrance).

REMEMBER TO ASK FOR HELP IF YOU NEED IT.
MSU Staff want to help you as you transition to the U.S. and MSU.
Advising and Enrollment

7:00 am
2nd Floor, A-Wing Wells Hall

A-132 Wells Hall
B-110 Wells Hall

8:15 am - 9:00 am
B-115 Wells Hall

9:15 am
Locations are included in the Welcome Packet you received at IAOP check-in

Time & location information will be given at the 9:15 am College Session

Time & location information will be given during advising.

Outside of B-110 Wells Hall

Required Advising and Enrollment for:
• All eligible provisionally admitted students
• Late arriving regularly admitted students
• English Language Center students who are newly academically eligible

Academic Advising and Enrollment Check-In
Eligible provisionally admitted students must have their IAOP Ticket/Green Sheet to check in.

Major Change

Math and Foreign Language Placement Testing
Testing for students who did not take the math placement test prior to IAOP, students who want to take a proctored math placement test, or students who need to take a foreign language placement test (French, Spanish, and German).

Leave Your Spartan Footprint
Required for students attending advising and enrollment today.
Review today’s schedule and think about what you will do to leave your Spartan Footprint on our campus, the nation, and the world.

College Session: Planning My Learning Experience
Required for students attending advising and enrollment today.
You will explore the curricular and extracurricular resources that will help you achieve success.

Academic Advising
You must see your academic advisor to plan your fall and spring course schedules.

Enroll for Classes
You will enroll for your courses after consulting with an academic advisor.

Advising & Enrollment Check-Out
In order for us to have a record of your academic advising, which is a condition of enrollment, you must check out. Students meeting with advisors and enrolling for classes in a building other than Wells Hall will check out in the building where they enroll for classes.
**Presentation Make Up**

*Required* for students who missed the presentations which took place Monday-Thursday listed below.

**Location:** Erickson Kiva  
Registration for each session is built into the scheduled time. Please be on time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00 am - 10:45 am</td>
<td>Erickson Kiva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45 am - 11:30 am</td>
<td>Erickson Kiva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 am - 12:00 pm</td>
<td>Erickson Kiva</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 pm - 1:45 pm</td>
<td>Erickson Kiva</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:45 pm - 2:30 pm</td>
<td>Erickson Kiva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 pm - 3:15 pm</td>
<td>Erickson Kiva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15 pm - 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Erickson Kiva</td>
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**Other Friday Events**

**Lunch**

**James Madison College International Student Orientation and Welcome Reception**  
Come learn important information about your transition into James Madison. There will be food and beverages, and each of you will receive a welcome bag!

**Dinner**

**Consult your Personal Schedule for location**
Optional Writing Placement Exam
Students who believe that they are adequately prepared to succeed in a Tier 1 writing course despite having been placed in WRA 1004 have an opportunity to request a re-evaluation of their placement. This re-evaluation requires writing a timed essay. Evaluation of that essay by the WRAC Department may result in a revised placement into a Tier 1 writing course. For information visit http://wrac.msu.edu/first-year-writing/honors-options-in-tier-1-writing-courses/.

MSU Hot Spots: Making Connections with People and Places
Current members of the Multi-Racial Unity Living Experience (MRULE) and Intercultural Aides will introduce you to campus resources. You will also have an opportunity to meet MSU student leaders and other new students.

Bed, Bath, and Beyond Shopping Trip

Lunch

MSU Hot Spots: Making Connections with People and Places
Current members of the Multi-Racial Unity Living Experience (MRULE) and Intercultural Aides will introduce you to campus resources. You will also have an opportunity to meet MSU student leaders and other new students.

Dinner
# Fall Welcome Information

Fall Welcome is a continuation of your orientation to Michigan State University. During Fall Welcome, you will have the opportunity to learn about many of the resources available at MSU and in the East Lansing community.

A detailed Fall Welcome schedule is available at [www.fallwelcome.msu.edu](http://www.fallwelcome.msu.edu). Should you have any questions about Fall Welcome, please contact the Department of Student Life at 517/355-8286 or via e-mail at stulife@msu.edu.

## Sunday, August 24

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 pm - 9:00pm</td>
<td>Residence Hall Floor/Hall Meetings&lt;br&gt;Check <a href="http://www.fallwelcome.msu.edu">www.fallwelcome.msu.edu</a> for details.</td>
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## Monday, August 25

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am - 11:00 am</td>
<td>Fall Convocation and One Book One Community Presentation&lt;br&gt;Check <a href="http://www.fallwelcome.msu.edu">www.fallwelcome.msu.edu</a> for details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 pm - 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Optional Writing Placement Exam&lt;br&gt;Students who believe that they are adequately prepared to succeed in a Tier 1 writing course despite having been placed in WRA 1004 have an opportunity to request a re-evaluation of their placement. This re-evaluation requires writing a timed essay. Evaluation of that essay by the WRAC Department may result in a revised placement into a Tier 1 writing course. For information visit <a href="http://wrac.msu.edu/first-year-writing/honors-options-in-tier-1-writing-courses/">http://wrac.msu.edu/first-year-writing/honors-options-in-tier-1-writing-courses/</a>.</td>
</tr>
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## Tuesday, August 26

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am - 12:00 pm</td>
<td>Colloquium with Your College&lt;br&gt;You are REQUIRED to attend this session that completes your introduction to your college and major.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Things to Remember:

1. **Academics MUST be your priority.**
2. **Be actively involved** in your classes by going to class, sitting in the front of the classroom, and asking questions.
3. **Be prepared for class** by reading your course documents and doing your assigned reading and homework.
4. Make sure you **see your academic advisor regularly** and keep track of your academic progress. Your advisor is here to help you, but it is your responsibility to know your major requirements and your progress toward graduation.
5. **Don't wait until your problem becomes an emergency.** Seek out help as soon as you have a question; questions and discussion are encouraged in the United States. All of the MSU faculty and staff are here to help you.
6. **Introduce yourself** to MSU staff, other MSU students, professors, etc.
7. **Use the resources available to you,** including the MSU Engagement Centers, library, Writing Center, tutors, etc.
8. Make sure you **understand U.S. rules about good academic conduct** and follow these rules closely.
9. The **staff members in the residence hall are there to make sure you are safe and help you if you have a question; think of them like a peer leader or proctor.**
10. If you want to make U.S. friends, **attend events in your Neighborhood.** Leave your door open and stop by and talk with other students on your floor.

Common Mistakes:

1. Not participating in class or in the residence halls.
2. Not introducing yourself to your professors, advisors, and peers.
3. Not asking for help if you are not doing well in a class or having trouble in the residence hall.
4. Not using the resources available at MSU.
5. Not following MSU’s rules about academic integrity and **not reading your MSU email regularly.**
**Online Resources**

**Things to Remember:**

1. You should **pay close attention to important dates on the Academic Calendar** to make sure you don’t miss deadlines. Your Spartan Resource Guide & Planner includes these dates.

2. You **use Schedule Builder** (schedule.msu.edu/planner.asp) to enroll for courses. It includes helpful functions such as text alerts, course swapping options, and an automated schedule generator.

3. **You must check your MSU email regularly.** Emails you receive from the university may be time sensitive; MSU’s expectation is that you are checking and responding to your MSU email on a regular basis.

4. You can **access important information** regarding your student account, tuition bill, academic credits, Holds, and grade point (GPA) through **STUINFO** at https://stuinfo.msu.edu/.

5. Your professor may use **online course management systems such as Desire2Learn (D2L) and ANGEL** to communicate, collect & post assignments, and track grades & attendance.

**Common Mistakes:**

1. Not knowing important dates for dropping and adding courses, tuition refunds, and the deadline for having no grade reported.

2. Forgetting to check your MSU email regularly or ignoring/not reading your MSU emails each day.

3. Failing to confirm your attendance in StuInfo every semester.

4. Not realizing that academic integrity, including MSU’s policy regarding plagiarism, also applies to online courses and online course tools such as ANGEL/Desire2Learn.
## The Road to Academic Success

### Things to Remember:

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<th>Notes:</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. <strong>Seeking help</strong> from tutors, MSU support offices, and your faculty and teaching assistants is common in the U.S. and is key to your academic success.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Many <strong>support services</strong> such as writing and math, <strong>exist in your Neighborhood Engagement Center</strong>. Visit the nearest office in Brody, Holden, Hubbard, McDonel, or the MSU Union.</td>
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<td>3. The <strong>Learning Resources Center puts on many academic and tutoring sessions</strong>. You can see their offerings online at: <a href="http://lrc.msu.edu/">http://lrc.msu.edu/</a></td>
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<td>4. If you have an academic question, ask your advisor or your instructor; <strong>do not rely on messages from your peers</strong> as they may be inaccurate.</td>
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<td>5. <strong>Cutting and pasting text from the Internet or an article into your paper is unacceptable</strong> for U.S. classrooms. You must accurately reference all ideas and quotations from outside sources.</td>
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<td>6. <strong>Submitting the same work for multiple classes in not acceptable</strong> in the United States. You must produce your own, individual work for each class assignment.</td>
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<td>7. <strong>Visit your professors and teaching assistants during office hours and attend review sessions.</strong> They want to see you and help you.</td>
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<td>8. Group studying can be very helpful, but <strong>be careful not to share too much work or too many answers</strong> with your study buddies. This could be considered cheating in the United States college culture.</td>
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<td>9. Students who <strong>live on campus</strong> for two years tend to make more friends and do better academically than those who move off campus after one year.</td>
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### Common Mistakes:

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<tr>
<td>1. Not eating well and sleeping enough during stressful academic times.</td>
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<td>2. Helping your friends in ways that violate campus policies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Not seeking help in class until you are already failing the class.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Relying on your friends for advice about academic policies and procedures.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Cutting and pasting information from a website into a class paper.</td>
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Immigration Basics

**Things to Remember:**

1. **Maintain your status in the US:** You must be a full time student (for example, enrolled for at least 12 credit hours if you are an undergraduate) every semester unless it is your summer vacation semester. Learn more about full-time credit requirements and exceptions from the OISS staff.

2. **Working in the US:** International students can work on campus up to 20 hours per week without authorization and may be able to work off campus with PRIOR authorization from OISS. Do not work off campus without talking to OISS well in advance. You must get approval to work every semester, including summer.

3. **Traveling:** All of your documents must be valid and include the required signatures in order for you to travel outside the United States and re-enter the United States.

4. **The role of the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS):** If you have any questions about immigration, talk to staff in OISS. Do not rely on what your friends tell you.

**Common Mistakes:**

1. Dropping classes without receiving permission from your academic advisor and OISS staff in advance.

2. Breaking immigration regulations regarding course enrollment (not being full-time, taking too many online courses, getting permission before attending another school).

3. Not reporting address changes to the Registrar’s Office (https://www.reg.msu.edu/StuForms/StuInfo/Addresses.asp) within five days of moving.

4. Losing immigration documents or forgetting to update them when information changes (major, degree level, financial support).

5. Working off campus without receiving preauthorization from OISS staff. Illegal employment will affect your immigration status.

6. Not getting a travel signature on your I-20 or DS-2019 before traveling outside the U.S. (OISS is the only office that is authorized to sign these documents).

7. Not checking your MSU email each day, not reading messages about immigration, and not responding immediately (if necessary).
Healthcare & Health Insurance in the U.S.

Things to Remember:

1. Purchasing Health Insurance in the United States is the student’s responsibility. There is no government support available.

2. Healthcare is very expensive, which is why health insurance is needed. Even with insurance, you still pay a portion of the cost for your healthcare (co-pay, deductible, co-insurance).

3. Because of dangerous practices in the health insurance industry, international students who wish to waive the Aetna health insurance provided through MSU by purchasing an alternative plan must now meet higher standards to qualify for a waiver. Private insurance plans that previously qualified for waivers may not qualify this year.

4. Only go to the Emergency Room (ER) when you have a true health emergency. If the health condition is not serious, go to an Urgent Care facility if Olin Health Center is closed.

Common Mistakes:

1. Going to the ER instead of an Urgent Care facility when a health condition is not a serious emergency.

2. Not carrying the health insurance card at all times or not going to the doctor because you never received a card.

3. Not seeking healthcare because of the fear that it will cost too much money.

4. Ignoring medical bills that include deductibles and co-pays because the student believes they were sent in error. (Do not assume insurance pays 100%.)

5. It is a challenge to find an alternative health insurance policy that will meet the waiver requirements. OISS can help you find a suitable, safe alternative policy if you wish.
Things to Remember:

1. **Call 9-1-1** for police, fire, and medical emergencies or if a crime is in progress.

2. **Crossing the street:** Do not walk in the street; cross only at marked crosswalks; obey the “Walk/Don’t Walk” signals. Look to the left and look to the right before you cross the street.

3. **Do not walk alone at night:** Learn about the CATA bus system. If you have questions, ask the OISS staff.

4. **Know and obey the State of Michigan alcohol laws.** You cannot drink or possess alcohol if you are under 21 years of age—even at a friend’s house.

5. Many students ride bicycles on and around campus. If you have a bicycle you must register it with the MSU Police (http://police.msu.edu/bikeinfo.asp) and obey all traffic laws. Make sure you lock your bike when you are not using it.

Common Mistakes:

1. Misusing 9-1-1. Do not call 9-1-1 unless you need to contact the police, fire fighters, or have a medical emergency and need an ambulance. Never call this number in order to play a joke on someone.

2. Walking in the street and/or not carefully crossing the street.

3. Texting or talking on the phone when crossing the street. Using your phone when you are crossing the street is distracting and can result in you being hit by a car.

4. Walking alone at night. This is dangerous.

5. Not registering your bicycle or leaving your bicycle unlocked when you are not using it.
Things to Remember:

1. MSU cares about you. Your AOP will continue during the fall semester.

2. You are required to attend at least 3 events listed on the orientation website (orientation.msu.edu) during fall semester as part of your extended AOP.

3. Make sure you select and register for events through the orientation website, as space will be limited.

4. You will learn more about the resources and services you can use to achieve your goals at MSU.

5. You will meet faculty, academic advisors, and staff who can answer your questions and help you once the semester begins.

6. You will have an opportunity to meet American students and learn more about the U.S. College Culture.

7. If you do not complete the extended AOP requirement, a HOLD will be placed on your student record. You will not be able to enroll in future courses until you complete the extended AOP requirement.

Common Mistakes:

1. Not registering for events that you plan to attend.

2. Forgetting to attend at least 3 events before fall semester ends.

3. Not attending the events you registered for.

4. Not checking your MSU email for important extended AOP information and registration confirmation emails.

5. Attending an event without completing the check-in process (swiping your Spartan ID).
Helpful Information After Orientation

Late Registration Fee
The Fall Registration Billing Statement will be available in STUINFO after you enroll for your classes. An email will be sent to your university-provided email address when the bill is accessible. Appropriate payment must be returned by the due date shown on the billing statement (approximately 2 weeks from the date of the billing statement) or a late registration fee will be assessed. If the balance due is $0, attendance must be confirmed in STUINFO, or classes will be dropped. Please consult the Student Accounts website at www.ctlr.msu.edu/COStudentAccounts for semester-specific payment due dates. All bills are available electronically only. Paper bills are not mailed via the U.S. Post Office.

Note on Privacy
If students want to restrict release of their personal directory information, they must complete a Directory Restriction Request online at www.reg.msu.edu (click on Privacy Guidelines (FERPA) under the “Policies & Regulations” tab) or log on to STUINFO (click on “Directory Restrictions” under the “Other” tab).

Communication and Records
According to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Michigan State University Access to Student Information policy, students enrolled at MSU are the sole guardians of their school records. This means that MSU students have access to their records and that others may view them only with the students’ express permission. Any correspondence concerning grades, academic honors, or disciplinary actions will be sent directly to the students. Misunderstandings and confusion can be avoided if students and parents are aware that, unlike high school, parents receive little direct correspondence from the University concerning students’ progress. Parents should also note that although they may have guest access for STUINFO, they will not be able to view student grades. Additional information is available at www.reg.msu.edu (click on Privacy Guidelines (FERPA) under the “Policies & Regulations” tab).

Immunizations
Students can contact the University Physician’s Office at 517/353-9101 or uphys.msu.edu for more information or questions.

Important Information About the First Day of Class

Classes begin on Wednesday, August 27. On that day, please attend your Monday classes. Thursday and Friday classes will run as usual.
Undergraduate Institutional Learning Goals and Outcomes
What It Means To Be A Spartan

A liberal arts education helps students to be outstanding leaders and life-long learners both in and out of the classroom. Undergraduate degree programs at Michigan State University revolve around five undergraduate learning goals, which provide the framework for active engagement and learning. Students who earn an undergraduate degree from Michigan State demonstrate the knowledge, attitudes, and skills associated with these goals. For more information, visit http://undergrad.msu.edu/learning/.

Analytical Thinking
Cultural Understanding
Effective Citizenship
Effective Communication
Integrative Reasoning

Tentative Resource Fair Participants
Monday, August 18 4:30-6:30pm, Breslin Center

• Campus and Community Partners
  East Lansing Public Library
  MSU Police Department
  CVIP & VETP
  MSU Libraries
  The Associated Students of Michigan State University
  Bailey Scholars Program
  Residence Education and Housing Services
  Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement
  CLACS
  College of Social Science
  Study Away
  Computer Store
  Counseling Center
  English Language Center
  Graduate Employees Union
  Honors College
  Impact 89FM
  MSU Family Resource Center
  MSU Food Bank
  MSU Recycling (and Surplus Store)
  MSU Safe Place
  MSU Student Health Services (OLIN)

  MSU Varsity Men’s Soccer
  Muslim Studies Program/MSA
  OCAT
  Office for Inclusion and Inter-cultural Initiatives
  Recreational Sports and Fitness Services
  Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities
  Undergraduate University Division
  Wharton Center
  Women’s Resource Center
  University Activities Board
  University Archives and Historical Collections
  Student Health Insurance Office of Financial Aid
  MSU Office of China Programs
  City of East Lansing Housing and University Relations
  Bridges International
  Residence Halls Association
  International Studies & Programs

• Student Groups
  African Student Union
  Caribbean Student Association
  Chinese Student Coalition
  Chinese Undergrad Students Association
  Coalition of Indian Undergraduate Students
  French Club
  Hong Kong Student Association
  International Volunteer Action Corps
  Japan Club
  Korean Student Association
  Pakistani Student Association
  Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers
  Turkish Student Association
  Vietnamese Student Association
  Chinese Christian Fellowship
  Spartan Christian Fellowship
ROOmmate AGREEMENT
Residence Education and Housing Services -- MSU

Instructions: Please complete this form honestly and independently of your roommate(s). After each person has completed the questions, compare notes. There will be differences in responses. Discuss how these differences can be resolved. Involve your Resident Assistant or Aide as necessary.

Name   Room/Building
Name   Room/Building

INSTRUCTIONS: Read each item. Each roommate should mark his/her individual response. If responses are different, discuss that difference and try to reach an understanding on that issue with which both roommates can live.

I.  USE OF EACH OTHER’S BELONGINGS

You may use these possessions of mine:
  a. Stereo/CD’s   YES  NO
  b. TV           YES  NO
  c. Clothes      YES  NO
  d. Personal Hygiene Items (toothpaste, shampoo, etc.)  YES  NO
  e. Computer/Laptop Computer/Printer  YES  NO
  f. Appliances (coffee pot, hairdryer, etc.)           YES  NO
  g. Furniture   YES  NO
  h. Food        YES  NO
  i. Other: ___________________________

If items may be used, under which circumstances:
  a. Without asking first  YES  NO
  b. Only with asking first YES  NO
  c. By guests/visitors    YES  NO

If consumables are used, e.g. food, soap, paper, etc.:
  a. They must be replaced YES  NO
  b. They do not have to be replaced YES  NO
  c. Let me know when you use them YES  NO

II.  HOW WE WILL USE OUR ROOM

Prioritize the way in which you would like your room used: (1=most important/3=least important)
  a. Sleeping
  b. Studying
  c. Socializing

I expect to go to bed by:
I expect to get up most mornings by:
I usually take naps at:
I plan to study in the room at:
I plan to socialize in the room at:

Will alcohol be allowed in the room?  YES  NO
(Underage consumption AND possession of alcohol is against University Policy)
III. VISITORS
Visitors will be allowed when:
   a. I am studying in the room       YES      NO
   b. I am not home                 YES      NO
   c. I am sleeping                 YES      NO
   d. Okay, regardless              YES      NO

Visitors may use my belongings
(Also see section I)
   YES      NO

Visitors of the opposite sex are:
   a. Not okay                     YES      NO
   b. Okay only at certain times (specify)       YES      NO
   c. Okay, regardless              YES      NO
   d. I agree to allow overnight visitors of the same sex.   YES      NO

IV. CARE OF OUR ROOM
Indicate how frequently, who will be responsible, and specifically when each of the following will happen:
Empty Trash-__________________________________________________________
Vacuum Carpets-_________________________________________________________

V. SECURITY
I will keep the room door locked when I am not in the room
   YES      NO

VI. ABOUT ME
When I’m in conflict with another person, I
   □ Hide my feelings and concerns
   □ Talk about my concerns respectfully
   □ Confront the person forcefully

When I’m tired or stressed, I respond to people...

VII. OTHER
List other issues (use of belongings, use of the room, or condition of the room, taking phone messages, etc...) and how you will handle or resolve those situations:

By now you should have had a chance to establish some working ground rules for your room. It is important to continue discussing issues as they arise. The Roommate Agreement is only a starting place.

We, as roommates, enter into this agreement fully intending to work cooperatively with each other and to discuss any concerns or issues that may arise. Should we encounter difficulty in our relationship that we are unable to resolve by open discussion with each other, we will seek out our Resident Assistant and ask for his/her assistance in renegotiating our Roommate Agreement.

Roommate Signature               Room/Blgd.        Roommate Signature               Room/Blgd.
Roommate Signature               Room/Blgd.
Classroom Behaviors Which Lead to Academic Success

Use this page during the *U.S. College Culture* Presentation

1. ____________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________
3. ____________________________________________
4. ____________________________________________
5. ____________________________________________
Top 10 First Week Tips from Current MSU International Students

We are excited that you have chosen to attend Michigan State University! Here are some tips that will help as you adjust to college life at MSU.

1. Make sure you close the shower curtain when you are showering in the bathroom to avoid flooding.

2. All the fire alarms work, so there is no need to pull them to make sure they are working. In fact, it’s illegal to pull the fire alarm if there is no fire.

3. Be sure to clean the shared kitchen after you cook. This includes washing the counters as well as the pots and pans that you used.

4. Don’t microwave your food in styrofoam, aluminum foil, or plastic containers because you could start a fire. Also, make sure that you cover your food with something such as a napkin before microwaving your food so it will not splatter. Make sure you take the plastic off of food such as frozen pizza before cooking it.

5. Do not flush anything but toilet paper down the toilet. If you flush female products, such as pads and tampons, major flooding may occur. There are containers in each bathroom stall in which you should dispose of these products.

6. Smoking is not allowed in any of the buildings. You may smoke outside, but you must be at least 50 feet away from the building.

7. If you have a bike, make sure you always lock it with a sturdy lock. You can only lock your bike to bike racks. If you need to store your bike, there are bike storage rooms inside each residence hall. Also, make sure you register your bike with the MSU Police (police.msu.edu) for free, or it will get impounded.

8. Get to know the Resident Assistants (RA) in your residence hall, and feel free to talk to him or her about anything! RAs live on your floor and are there to help you in any way they can. There are also Intercultural Aides in each residence hall who bring people from different cultures together.

9. There are many items you can get from the front desk in your residence hall including toilet paper, spare keys, trash bags, stamps for purchase, a vacuum, board games, and sports equipment. You should also go to the front desk to report any damage to your room or shared spaces.

10. In order to get involved in MSU student organizations, visit the Sparticipation event on Munn Field on Tuesday, August 26th from 5:00pm-8:00pm. Also visit http://studentlife.msu.edu/student-organizations-activities for more information. You can meet American friends when you join a student organization.
Academic Integrity: A Core Value at Michigan State

Academic integrity and responsibility are fundamental values in a community of scholars. Doing one’s own work – and taking responsibility for that work – allows students to test their own abilities. Honesty and integrity are fundamental to building the trust that is required for students and faculty to thrive and learn from one another. Violating this social contract erodes this trust. It is important that students new to the university be aware of their responsibilities as members of the MSU academic community.

At MSU, academic misconduct is described as:

- using work or answers that are not one’s own;
- providing academic work or answers to another person;
- accepting or providing assistance with completing assignments or examinations;
- failing to cite others ideas, theories, or written work when used in an assignment;
- interfering through any means with another’s academic work;
- faking research data or results.

For example, it would be a violation of academic integrity for students to:

- turn in an exam, paper, or project that is not wholly their own work;
- get questions and/or answers from students who have taken the same exam or quiz;
- copy answers from another student’s exam or test;
- work with other students to create a common set of answers to assignments without the instructor’s permission;
- have another person take a test or complete assignments;
- submit the same paper for two or more classes;
- download answers to problems or projects and submit them as one’s own;
- collaborate with other students on projects or assignments without the instructor’s permission.

Plagiarism is a particular form of cheating that involves representing someone else’s work as one’s own. Reports of plagiarism have increased as students turn to the Internet as a major source of data. “Cutting and pasting” is a dangerous practice since it is easy to assume credit for someone else’s work. Plagiarism may include:

- copying sentences or phrases from the work of another without a citation;
- changing a few words in a sentence that is written by another and then claiming it as one’s own original work;
- using someone else’s original idea without citation;
- failing to reference the source of data or facts;
- submitting a borrowed, purchased, or downloaded paper.

Properly attributing the ideas, words, processes, and results of others (that is, including a citation), is required if using another scholar’s work and effort.

Consequences of academic dishonesty can be severe. If an instructor believes a student has committed an act of academic misconduct, s/he may issue a failing/penalty grade on the assignment or in the course. When an instructor gives an undergraduate or graduate student a penalty grade for academic misconduct, the instructor must provide a written description of the details of the academic misconduct to the student and to the student’s academic dean. The student’s academic dean will add the written description to the student’s academic record, where it will remain, unless the student successfully grieves the allegation. Depending on the seriousness and extent of the violation, the Dean may call for additional sanctions. Additional sanctions include such things as issuing a warning, placing the student on warning probation, instituting disciplinary probation, or suspending the student from the university. Ignorance of university rules regarding academic misconduct cannot be used to exonerate the student from sanctions.

To clarify policies and procedures concerning academic integrity and academic misconduct at Michigan State University, students should visit the Office of the Ombudsperson at MSU (129 N. Kedzie Hall) or the Ombudsperson’s website: www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/. All questions are welcome and inquiries may be made online through a secure server.

For information on how to properly reference and cite sources, students should access the following library website: www.lib.msu.edu/research/.
Throughout your International Academic Orientation Program experience, you will meet other new international students, current MSU student leaders, an academic advisor, and MSU faculty and staff. Use the spaces below to write down the names, email addresses, phone numbers, and office locations of the new people you meet so that you can keep in touch once the semester begins.

### Orientation Cohort:

#### Cohort Leader

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#### Cohort Members

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### Academic Advisor

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### Others

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29
The following is a collection of essays written by current students about their MSU experiences. These students are leaving their Spartan Footprints.

What will your footprint look like?
Life with Jack

Magic Johnson. Mateen Cleaves. Charles Rogers. Tom Izzo. These people influenced me to choose Michigan State. Growing up, I bled green and white. Every Saturday, I was watching Spartan football. Every night during the winter, I did my homework as soon as I got home so I could stay up to watch Spartan basketball. My earliest memories of my childhood involved a Michigan State basketball jersey and a little tykes hoop in my basement.

It’s safe to say I grew up in love with Michigan State. When it came time for me to go to college, there was only one place for me: East Lansing. I had no idea what my major was going to be. I didn’t know what academic programs the University offered. All I knew was that I was going to be in the front row at the first football game of the year.

But I had a rough start to my college experience. I had to switch all of my classes the day before the semester started. My bike was stolen. I was put in transitional housing, and all of my friends lived on the opposite side of campus. I had given Michigan State all of my love, why didn’t it love me back?

The most trying part of my freshman year came when I was assigned a new roommate after opting to leave transitional housing. I was assigned a new room in Holden Hall with a student named Pu Junhua. Upon reading the name in the e-mail, I remember saying out loud, “not gonna happen.” I didn’t want to live with an international student. Living with a stranger is hard enough, but living with a stranger who hardly spoke English would be impossible.

I had agreed to move out, and that was final. No backing out. Just hours before the first football game, I remember moving my stuff from Case to Holden. It was hot. I was mad. And what I saw when I opened the door did nothing to improve my mood. 604 East Holden looked like a war zone. There was old Chinese food laying around, sour milk sitting open on the dresser, and wet socks and underwear hanging from every place imaginable. Pu Junhua was not in the room, and the R.A. was not around either. I didn’t feel comfortable moving his stuff to make room for mine, but I had no choice. I put my clothes away, made my bed, and arranged my desk. Through this whole time, Pu Junhua didn’t come back. I waited until the last possible minute before I had to go and left him a note saying I was his new roommate.

Upon returning from home for Labor Day weekend, I was finally able to meet him. His friends called him Jack, and he told me he was from a town near Beijing, China. I could tell he was scared. All he brought with him to MSU could fit in two suitcases. His English was awful. I had to help him finish sentences, and I was never sure what he said or meant. Phrases such as “what about this” meant anything from “what is that” to “how is your girlfriend?” He was taking classes to help him learn English. He had to pass an English test in December to be eligible to enroll in regular university courses.

After a few weeks of living with Jack, I learned he was happy to have me around. He always asked for help on his English homework and loved to ask about American culture. He was not shy about anything. He quickly became the most popular guy on our floor because of his incidental humor. He identified our heavy-set R.A. as “Panda.” He got his bikes stolen. Yes, both of his bikes were stolen because he wouldn’t invest in a lock. He got fired from two jobs. When I told him I was going to eat Mexican food with my family, he asked why we were going to Mexico for the weekend. I lent him one of my notebooks when I saw him writing notes on napkins from the cafeteria. Black cherry ice cream became a staple at every meal. I showed him how to wash his clothes in the laundry rooms instead of our shower. I showed him amazon.com, Meijer, and how to properly shoot a basketball. When he called me over Christmas to inform me he had passed his English test, I felt just as excited as he was.

Living with Jack was the best part of my freshman year at Michigan State. I was able to meet someone different from me in every way imaginable. It forced me to broaden my horizon and to be afraid of nothing. I didn’t look at living with an international student as a burden, but rather an opportunity. It was an opportunity that not everyone gets to experience. There was an adjustment period, but I didn’t feel as if it was any different than my other friends adjusting to their roommates. Eventually, he became known as Jack, rather than “my international roommate.” Although I don’t live with Jack anymore, we are still close friends and he still calls me when he has questions. His latest series of questions revolve around our accounting homework and the steps in applying to the business college.

No matter what your situation is at Michigan State, you will have opportunities. You will have opportunities to take a class about outer space, join the squirrel-watching club, be a part of the Izone, and the list goes on. This campus has endless opportunities, make the most of them. Things may not go the way you had hoped they would, but it may not always be a bad thing. Look at things with a broader perspective. Get out of your comfort zone. Stay positive. College is a new experience that will be remembered for the rest of your life. Embrace it. Enjoy it. You’re only here once. Go green!
Open the Box

“Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you’re gonna get.”

When Tom Hanks said it in Forrest Gump, the first English movie I watched without Chinese subtitles, I was right on the flight to Detroit two years ago, heading for my doctoral study in a country I never been to. At that moment, little did I know my life would be full of surprises and serendipities.

In a sunny afternoon, a year ago, my mum screamed in the other end of the line, “No way, no way! You must finish your five-year PhD study in United States,” she said arbitrarily, “Earning a doctoral degree in US is the dream of our family and you must take it seriously.” My mum was astonished by the decision of her beloved son - quit the Chemistry PhD program and become a Master student in Marketing Research at Michigan State.

In my first 20 years life in China, I pretended to be a stereotype of so-called “Straight-A” student: study all day and night in order to get a marvelous GPA in college, learn pianos for ten years to prove myself not a GPA ‘Nerd’ and eventually get an offer with a full tuition scholarship from a prestigious PhD program in United States. Apparently, my unconventional decision destroyed the stereotype completely, at least in my mum’s mind.

“Mum, I know this decision will shock you,” I took a deep breath and continued, “But let’s me tell you what I experienced here in my first year.”

On the first day of orientation at Chemistry Department, each new PhD student was assigned to an advisory faculty, who would help us to adapt to the new life here. When I met my advisor professor in his office, the first question he asked me was simple but challenging, “Why do you want to pursue a PhD?”

I stared at his face and found myself at a loss for words because I never thought about this question before. As a “Straight-A” student in China, I was accustomed to follow the career path admired by my family and the entire society. In China, everyone kept asking me what you did and how I did, nobody ever cared about why I did, not even myself. This “why” question was definitely unexpected.

“I…just wanna a PhD” I murmured, with my eyes staring at the clock on Professor’s desk.

“It’s important for you to know the answer.” The professor said, but still with a mild smile on his face.

I forgot how we finished the conversation on that day, but the question was kept in my mind all the time: Why? Why I want to study here?

New life in this beautiful college town apparently is not willing to spare me too much time in working the answer out. I was busy taking the graduate-level classes and working as a TA for undergrads. Life here was so different from what I experience in China. I knew my box of chocolates was opened: in the website of reg.msu.edu, I can register for any course from any department if I want to, instead of taking courses from a predetermined list made by someone else. It made me feel that the entire university opened doors to me. However, all doors open doesn’t mean I have the time to knock at each door. When I was in college, I involved in a marketing project in Procter & Gamble. Thus, Marketing courses stepped into my mind.

“Is marketing a good choice for me?” I hesitated and asked myself.

The first day of Marketing class dispelled my doubts because the class was beyond my imagination: it’s at the classroom of MSU that I knew, as a student, I was very welcomed to interrupt the professor and blurt out my questions or concerns, instead of glazing at the professor and keeping listening passively. It was in the syllabus here that I knew I have the rights to do “window shopping” and pick up the course I thought fitted me well, rather than stick to a course which was only interesting for me at the first glance. It was… Everything was fresh and I was excited.

The excitement didn’t last for a long time. I found the chocolates in my box were not as sweet as I expected. The exams were no longer the single criteria of final score, I cannot achieved a 4.0 as I did in China by simply studying day and night. Instead, I need to a dynamic part of the class: participating the discussion with professors, sharing the team project with my classmates, and speaking out my questions anytime anywhere. The deliverables that professors cared about for each assignment and projects cannot be addressed by memorizing the contents of the textbooks. Instead, I need to apply the theories in the book to analyzing the real business scenarios in my own words. I need to absorb 30-page reading materials and go through ten annual reports in two days for a five-minute per person presentation in the class. I need…

Chocolates might not be sweet at first bite, but it taste awesome eventually. At the end of the semester, I achieved more than a 4.0 in the course, but also decided to pursue a marketing analyst’s career rather than a chemist’s. Two month later, my dear mum will fly to East Lansing to celebrate my Master’s graduation. Currently, I work at Hershey’s (yes, the biggest chocolates manufacturer in US) as a marketing analyst.

When I look back on my life, MSU gives me the answer for the “why” question: life is like a box of chocolates. There are lots of unknowns. Don’t be afraid to open your box because you never know what you’re gonna get.
“If you don’t have a dream, how can you have a dream come true” (Jiminy Cricket). I must admit that I have willed myself to dream on so many nights. I vaguely remember them but when I do, they are bits and pieces of movies and shows that my mind puts together and each time I am fighting to emerge as the all-time star. Most of the time, quite unsuccessfully. The state between sleep and wake is where I see everything that I have ever aspired to be: a passionate and tenacious gynecologist.

I went to the hospital one afternoon and I saw a room crowded with mothers and babies, hoping and waiting for a chance to see a doctor to take care of them. Due to the shortage of staff and exhausted doctors, some of them did not get that chance. These people went home the same way they came, helpless and in dire need of care. This image was forever imprinted in my memories and it constantly drives my passion. I want to be able to provide the utmost care to patients and globalize my expertise in helping people gain access to quality health care. I see myself as someone who would be able to extend my shine to brighten the homes of those who experience nothing but darkness.

I have always said that coming to Michigan State University was the best decision I ever made. It took me less than a semester to realize this and I have been here for only a year. I work hard every day to excel academically, mostly because I am driven by what I want to achieve in the near future. I utilize office hours, help rooms and my teaching assistants because MSU has made it possible for me. I have the opportunity to participate in research projects which cater to my interests in the health field. I have met people like me, people who share the same passion of learning the art of how to save lives. Unlike the community college I attended before coming to Michigan State University, here I am treated as an individual, not as a number. I received an email from the internship coordinator of the College of Natural Science listing me by name to alert me of a job opportunity where I can get hands-on experience in the health care setting. I felt very privileged.

Touring the world has been on my bucket list for as long as I can remember. From Ghana in West Africa, I have made it to Canada and the United States. Of all the 196 countries in the world, I am proud of my very few explorations. Being here at MSU seems as though I have travelled to over 50 countries already. It is so refreshing and enriching whenever I witness different cultural shows around campus. I have the opportunity to interact with people from so many different places and I have shared my culture with them just as they have shared theirs with me. Listening to people talk about their place of origin gives me a whole new experience. I feel the love and pride that radiates from people whenever they express their culture. “The Born Series” written by Nora Roberts is the reason I yearn to go to Ireland. I can’t tell if she exaggerated the beauty of the country but this same impact is what I feel whenever I have conversations with people pertaining to their cultural backgrounds. Interacting with these people has opened my eyes to different things around me. I am gaining insight into how best I can integrate all my experiences from both the academic and social facets of my college career to better understand and help people from all walks of life.

Through participation in various activities around campus, I am acquiring skills in team building, effective communication and proficiency in leadership roles. As a recent Resident Assistant for the Academic Orientation Program, I have the opportunity to harness my potential and ability to touch lives in a positive way. I look forward to interacting with my fellow staff members every week because they are genuinely friendly, encouraging and accepting. This atmosphere does more than foster productiveness. It provides personal growth and strength.

I felt lost when I came to the United States. I attended a community college for a year and a half without participating in any activity because I was too scared. I did not feel like I belonged. I spent most of my time buried in my books. I did great academically but I still felt lost. When I came to Michigan State University at a moment’s notice, I knew nothing about it except that it was huge. Not knowing a single person here, I still decided to attend and not for once have I ever regretted my decision. My Intercultural Aide took me to my first MRULE (Multi-racial Unity Living Experience) meeting. She listened to me when I expressed my fears about finding my place here and helped me through this segue.

This University has given me all that I could ever wish for and so much more. I hail from a country where such opportunities are almost non-existent. I have now gained the confidence to try so many things that I never would have. The amount of gratitude I have for this great institution cannot be expressed. I have never felt more at home. One thing I have also realized is that, sometimes when a door opens, it stays open until we decide to close it. All these opportunities I have been offered here at MSU continue to fuel my passion to be a gynecologist. I intend to use every bit of my experience as a tool to continue to steer me in the right direction so that I can give nothing but my best to my community, nation and the world.
With swollen red eyes full of tears, I finally let my father’s warm and big hands slip away from mine. The words came out from his mouth, “Goodbye now, you’re a big girl. I believe in you.” I could not believe what I was seeing; I had never seen tears in my dad’s eyes until that moment. His strong and firm shoulders were shaking and his genuine eyes were full of sadness. It was his words, “I believe in you” that pushed me to step on the airplane and to drag myself to the place called ‘Michigan’. It was the place where everything was full of green and I could not find any tall buildings blocking the sun or the clouds. I thought to myself with the bright sun on my face, ‘So this is it. This is the place where I will build my dreams and future up high.’

The first day of my classes was the most exciting, but tiring day that I’ve had at Michigan State University. It took me a good 30-minute walk to arrive at my second class from my first one, because I was too scared and embarrassed to ask, ‘Excuse me, could you please tell me where Communication and Arts center is?’ I had practiced the sentence over and over the night before, but my mouth froze up every time I tried to ask the question. Thanks to my cowardliness, the big white confusing map became my best friend for the day. And it was when I was trying to locate my classroom, wandering and circling around the building, that I heard the words, “Hey there, do you need some help?” That was it! That was when my savior appeared! Thanks to kind-hearted Sharon, now one of my best friends, I made it to my class on time.

After all these struggles, I hopped on the big white CATA bus, relieved that my day was finally over. I was holding my small bus pass tight while I stared at the bus driver, not knowing what to do. Gosh, what am I supposed to do with this thing? Do I just show it to the driver? What am I supposed to say? What if he thinks that I’m stupid? Is everyone else looking at me? I felt like my head was going to blow up due to all these worries and thoughts. But despite all my concerns, the driver welcomed me with a big wide grin, and said, “Okay, so this is how you swipe your card on here.” The card slid through the machine with a beep noise and I was finally on my way home. Aha! And suddenly I realized and figured everything out. Maybe, there would be nothing to be afraid of after all. It is perfectly okay not knowing things and asking for help.

By the time I finally said goodbye to my dear friend, my campus map, and gained some courage to speak up and express my feelings and thoughts freely, I found myself with a bigger problem – this time a more serious one. As a junior from a small community college before transferring to MSU, I never faced many challenges. Not only that, I never really had a chance to think of what I needed to do for my future career. I also didn’t know how to prepare myself to become successful in my major, accounting, which was one of the main reasons why I left my dear family and friends behind in the first place. I attended all the presentations the top accounting firms held, and the only comments I received from recruiters were, “Oh, I’m sorry, but we don’t sponsor international students,” or “Well, as for being an international student, you’re really going to have to stand out amongst everyone to be considered as a candidate for our firm.”

My accounting courses weren’t only excuses to call up my friends in Korea and brag about how large the classes are in the United States; they were just like the movies we had watched together in Korea. From those courses, I also learned achieving 4.0s in all my classes and graduating earlier than my peers wouldn’t guarantee success in my chosen career. Unlike most Asian nations, where the expectations of receiving perfect scores are more important than anything else, the standards of the U.S firms are different. While all these American students were decorating their resumes with various working experiences, I could not even think of things that would fill half a page of mine. I was very shocked and overwhelmed by the situation. I began to wonder why I chose accounting as my major and why I was studying at MSU. The only answer I could come up with at the moment was to ensure the stability of my future career. Then, I realized this answer was not enough to acquire the internship and hiring position. I asked myself, Do I even like or enjoy accounting? Well, I don’t know. Why am I even studying in the United States after all and will I be able to fulfill my goals? I really don’t know! I was completely lost.

When I was in Korea, I always felt extremely embarrassed and hated when my mother called me ‘Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer’. My nose always turns bright red under two conditions – when I’m cold and when I cry. You can easily spot me sniffing my nose and wiping tears away with a tissue before anyone else around me. It was not only freezing cold in Michigan, but I also could not rid myself of my depression which frequently caused me to cry. This was set off by the frustration I felt and pressure I was under. I thought I was adapting to my new environment well and doing perfectly fine in East Lansing. But due to all of the negative things going on my life and happening to me, I began to miss my friends. I missed starting my day with the delicious and rich smell of my mom’s soup and being able to walk or take a bus to go wherever I wanted, whenever I needed to. I missed tall buildings, bright lights, and the excitement of the city in Korea.
Nobody at home had picked up the phone for the last couple days. And I thought he would probably be able to help me with all the problems I was experiencing. Yes, he could solve everything for me! “Dad, why didn’t anyone answer...?” Before I could even complete my sentence, I felt my heart dropping. “My dear, your mom was in the emergency room. But don’t worry, everything is fine now. I know I should have called you earlier, but I just wanted to make sure everything turned out fine before reaching out to you.” So, that’s when I found out that my mother had a stroke, 8 days after the actual incident happened. Even though the surgery turned out successful, for the first time studying in the U.S, I realized that seeing my mother two years ago could have been the last time; the last time I heard her beautiful voice and the last time I embraced her warm body. “Can I please speak to her?” And then I heard her weak, but firm voice through the phone. I could not say or do anything, other than cry and sniff my nose. And she said, “Hey, my dear Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, big girls don’t cry. Don’t forget. Big girls don’t cry.”

Even though it was hard not being able to see my mother with my own eyes, while she was recovering without major issues, I decided that I could not give up on my hopes and dreams related to my career, just like that. I stopped crying, picked myself up and did what other American students normally did. I went to career fairs and did not miss any presentations or speeches the firms held. I attended different types of events while I also went out and sought advice from counselors, recruiters, and professors. I also socialized with people with different personalities, backgrounds, and perspectives by becoming involved with various types of student organizations. There were a tremendous amount of opportunities and activities that MSU offered which many international students were not aware of, or did not even attempt to become involved with. Through those interactions and experiences, I learned how people dealt with their difficulties and why those focused individuals were driven to reach their own goals. Motivation and encouragement I received from many people I met at MSU assisted me to apply for three of the ‘Big 4 Accounting Firms’. As a result, I had initial interviews with all three of the firms and now I have been invited to their second-round interviews at their Detroit offices which will occur in the coming weeks.

We all know that people do not have control over what has already happened, or is happening in their lives. It is especially harder for international students, like me. There are numerous of times I have felt hopeless and lonely being away from all the familiarities and comforts of being home with people who I’d been accustomed to. However, we still have control over how we prepare ourselves and adjust to new environments – it is all in our mindset and our thinking process. I also believe that it is extremely challenging, but important to make the right decisions, mindset shift, and put the right people around us, in order to find our own ways to succeed. That is it and everything is crystal clear now! Looking back, ten months ago, I was merely a shy and dependent girl who was even afraid of asking how to find my way to classes or use my bus pass. I was also a girl who almost missed out on valuable opportunities only because I was afraid of being rejected for the fact that I have a different status, backgrounds, and nationality than other American students. If I hadn’t decided to come to Michigan State University and if it wasn’t for the people who continuously supported my goals, I probably wouldn’t be where I am as of today. All those hardships that I went through pushed me to grow within myself.

Yes, my mother still calls me ‘Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer’. I still cry easily and my nose still turns bright red whenever I do so. I probably won’t be able to change that anytime soon, and my mother is well aware of this fact too. But unlike my mother said while she was trying to stop me from crying, I can now proudly say that big girls are allowed to cry. However, big girls like me never give up.
International AOP (IAOP) Presentation Expectations

The following behaviors are expected during all sessions of the International Academic Orientation Program:

• Do not talk while the presenter is talking.
• Do not use cellphones (i.e., texting) or other electronic devices (laptop, e-readers, tablets) during presentations.
• Stay awake and engaged.
• Consult the appropriate pages, including the information session outlines, in this Schedule Booklet during and after the presentation. You should also read the information prior to the presentation.
• Swipe and Stay: Students who leave after checking in/swiping in to presentations but return to check-out will face consequences, which may include a HOLD or being disenrolled from courses.
• Please carry the following with you during IAOP:
  o Passport
  o I-20/DS2019
  o Personal Schedule
  o Schedule Booklet
  o Welcome Bag
  o Nametag (wear it!)
  o Spartan ID card
• Follow your Personal Schedule. Your Personal Schedule has been designed for you.
  o Do not follow a friend’s Personal Schedule for presentation or advising appointment times.
  o You must attend presentations and eat meals in the locations listed on your personal schedule.

Check Your MSU Email Account DAILY!